

Enforcement instructors, she shoulders significant responsibility. She organizes a month-long training program for new members, leads hands-on practice sessions and organizes qualifications boards. Nicole Emmons also worked during off-duty hours in mission requirements associated with specially targeted vessels and has participated in over 20 security boardings.

Displaying exceptional initiative, she deployed to the Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur Incident Command Post, providing her expertise as a Situation Unit Leader in the aftermath of the EAGLE OTOME's 450,000 gallon crude oil spill. She filled a key role in providing operational commanders with continuous feedback regarding the progress of the clean-up efforts and was awarded the Coast Guard Commandant's Letter of Commendation. During the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, she was awarded the Coast Guard's Special Operations Ribbon for training reservist pollution investigators. In November of 2010, she transferred to the Planning Division and immediately accepted several large areas of responsibility well above her pay grade, including providing critical updates needed for the Geographic Response Plan and Area Response Plan.

Nicole Emmons also serves her community. She helped create the unit's Moving Assistance Team to minimize the financial burden of local moves for fellow shipmates. She is a founding member of her unit's COMPASS program, which promotes community outreach and diversity education in local high schools. Serving as the Vice President of the Human Relations Council, she helps to provide a safe, open forum for discussing human relation issues and celebrating different cultures.

Nicole Emmons' service to the community also includes volunteering for the local Boys and Girls Club, Big Brothers/Big Sisters Lunch Buddy program and mentoring an academically and socially challenged child. She has participated in charity fund-raising and community events, such as the Ethel Precht Breast Cancer 3K, the Coast Guard Relay for Life and volunteering for the Lake Charles Special Olympics Torch Run.

Along with all of her numerous career achievements, Nicole holds two Bachelor of Arts degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in saying thank you to Marine Science Technician Second Class Nicole Emmons for her extraordinary dedication to duty and service to this country through her outstanding performance in the United States Coast Guard and her community. We wish Nicole, her husband Michael, and her family all the best in her remarkably bright future.

HONORING MR. LOU VIVERITO AND
STICKNEY TOWNSHIP FOR EXPANDING
HEALTHCARE CLINIC

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Lou Viverito, President of Stickney

Public Health District, and to recognize his efforts in constructing a new wing to a medical center in Stickney, Illinois. The wing, which opened on July 23, 2011, will provide quality healthcare for the residents of Stickney, a township in my district, for generations to come.

Mr. Viverito's career in public service spans five decades, starting in 1965. Since that time, he has held many positions, but public health has always been his passion. He has served as a State Senator, reaching positions of leadership in that capacity. Mr. Viverito was elected President of Stickney Public Health District in 1973, and has worked tirelessly for his constituents in Stickney since then. Mr. Viverito's decades of work will culminate in a brand new section of Stickney's health center that will preserve the wellbeing of thousands over the next several decades.

Stickney's new medical center stands as a testament to dedicated public service and intelligent public policy. The six million dollar health center will open after years of work from public servants who put the needs of their citizenry first: the Officials of Stickney Township, the Stickney Public Health District, and especially Lou Viverito. The project was completed without any increases in taxes and without a bond issue, showing how responsible planners can bring substantial public good to a community without the need for public debt.

The medical center is a continuation of a long history of quality health care for the residents of Stickney. Since the founding of Stickney's Public Health District in 1946, residents have enjoyed excellent care for little or no cost. Medical professionals will continue to offer ambulatory health care, podiatry, immunizations, maternal health, WIC nutrition programs, school health services, communicable disease control, chronic disease management, elderly community care, behavioral health, and dental services in this state-of-the-art facility.

Please join me in honoring Mr. Viverito, the Officials of Stickney Township, and the Stickney Public Health District on their accomplishment. I know this project will have wide-ranging positive effects for Stickney residents for years, and I thank Mr. Viverito for his pivotal role in bringing this idea to fruition.

VICTIMS OF AGENT ORANGE RELIEF ACT OF 2011

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, from 1961 to 1971, approximately 19 million gallons of fifteen different herbicides, including 13 million gallons of Agent Orange, were sprayed over the southern region of Vietnam. Many, including Agent Orange were based with the toxic contaminant, known as dioxin.

It is estimated that between 2.1 million and 4.8 million Vietnamese people were present during the spraying of Agent Orange and other herbicides and many more were or continue to be exposed through contact with the environment and food that was contaminated, or as offspring of those exposed who now suffer from illnesses and deformities.

Today there are still dozens of environmental hot spots in Vietnam which contami-

nate the food, soil, sediment and wildlife and continue to expose Vietnamese to dioxin.

Agent Orange exposure continues to negatively affect the lives of men and women in Vietnam and in the United States. Many victims' lives are cut short and others live with disease, disabilities and pain, often untreated or unrecognized.

Therefore, Congress resolves to address and remediate the ongoing problems and concerns that arose or will arise from the use of these deadly Agents during the Vietnam War in both the United States and in Vietnam.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2634.

DOG PARK COMPETITION OFFERS LESSON OF UNITY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, perhaps the dog days of summer, exacerbated by the hot air sometimes generated in this city, are contributing to our current budget morass. Rather than throwing our hands up, and saying everything is going to the dogs, I want to share with our colleagues, that man's best friend, and maybe our only friend in this city, Mr. Speaker, can be a rallying cry for unity and a lesson on how to get things done.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, the good people of Huntington, West Virginia, are rallying support for their city in a nationwide contest that has a grand prize of \$100,000 to construct the town's first off-leash dog park.

Huntington is a town devoted to beautiful, peaceful and useful parks, and has a long and proud history of maintaining a grand system of parks. Moreover, Huntington has a tradition of coming together, when it seems the world as they know it, is coming apart. I refer of course to the tragic loss of Marshall University's football team in 1970. Ultimately, and with sheer determination as their only ally at times, the University and the City produced National Championship teams. Herein, I do believe, lie lessons for our fellow Americans, for the members of this body, and the entire Congress.

At last count, Huntington was in first place in the contest that will be decided by Internet voting and ends next week. Local businesses and media are all supporting this community driven effort. This past weekend, Hillbilly Hot Dogs in downtown Huntington sponsored a hot dog eating contest to draw attention to the campaign. As the winning contestant Ron Clark said, the proposed park can be a "good place to make great friends." Maybe members of this body ought to take a few minutes each morning to walk their pooches and pass some pleasantries with their colleagues.

My little dog, Billie Sue, will enjoy romping with Huntington's proud pets in their newest park and I look forward to chatting with my constituents old and new. Whatever the final outcome however, Huntington will have fiercely and fairly campaigned to the final second. But I know I join Huntingtonians in saluting every community taking part in this contest that has reawakened pride, stirred spirit and strengthened ties across the country. Huntington will always be in first place with that commitment. I ask my colleagues to reflect

upon Huntington's example in the coming days.

CONGRESSIONAL COMMENDATION
COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
DEACON HORACE A. MCKNIGHT,
II

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this communication is forwarded with great love, respect and admiration on behalf of the constituents of the Third Congressional District of Florida and myself as we pay tribute to the life of Deacon Horace A. McKnight, II.

We are all deeply saddened by the loss of this most loved and admired gentleman, who, by his sheer determination served his country, his community, his church and most proudly, his family, immediate and extended. Mr. McKnight, a World War II Veteran served valiantly for an ideal, a place in his heart that would be a testament to one's ability to rise above the mediocre and the perceived notions of others, in order to serve the common good for all. His was a selfless and true act of patriotism and love of country and he perhaps knew that with such service, the lives of his flintily and his fellow countrymen would be made better. He was right, and his act of service at that time in our history and his dedication, helped shape the social direction of an entire nation and paved the way for all he was to accomplish and did, for many to benefit from.

Horace McKnight, husband to his beloved childhood sweetheart Delia of forty-seven years, father, brother, uncle, grandfather, great grandfather, friend, church and community leader and entrepreneur, was and shall always be our example of a leader and caring man, deserving of all the accolades and acknowledgements received and most deserved. This quiet, calm, confident gentleman and "Chief Deacon", was a giant among men who saw a job and just got it done, without fanfare or applause. It is this manner of applause, great respect and love we now bestow upon our dear Horace. And in so doing, we say thank you for all you have done, for all you stand for and most assuredly, for all that you have meant to so many of us. We are eternally grateful for having known, loved and respected Horace McKnight, and are blessed for, and by, his manner of life, living and giving. A true gentleman was he. God Bless each one, and may the memory of Deacon Horace A. McKnight remain with you always.

HONORING HAL DAVID

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Hal David on the occasion of his 90th birthday. Hal is being honored by his many colleagues, family and friends for his ability to touch the lives of others through the art of songwriting.

Hal is a first-generation American, born in Brooklyn to immigrant parents. One of his earliest ventures in using his musical talents to help others occurred when he served in the U.S. Army Entertainment Section during World War II, along with his colleagues Carl Reiner and Werner Klemperer. Four years after the conclusion of the war, Hal—along with Don Rodney—co-wrote his first hit record, "The Four Winds and the Seven Seas" recorded by Vic Damone. Hal continued to write hits, including "Bell Bottom Blues" for Teresa Brewer, "Brokenhearted Melody" for Sarah Vaughan and "Johnny Get Angry" for Joanie Sommers.

Hal then began his legendary collaboration with composer Burt Bacharach. The two comprised one of the best-known songwriting teams of the 50's and 60's. The incredibly prolific duo Hal and Burt wrote four songs that were nominated for Academy Awards, with "Raindrops" from the 1969 film Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid winning the Oscar for "Best Song." The two also co-wrote the score for the hit 1968 Broadway musical Promises, Promises, for which the original cast recording won a Grammy Award. The show was revived last year with Hal's original lyrics.

In addition to his career as a lyricist, Hal also served as President of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. I was fortunate enough to meet and work with him during these years. Hal's devotion to his art was apparent as he led the battle against source licensing efforts and today he continues to serve on ASCAP's Board of Directors.

Hal also spent ten years as the Chairman and CEO of the Songwriters Hall of Fame. During his tenure, the Songwriters Hall of Fame established an important digital presence and launched a gallery at the Grammy Museum in Los Angeles.

As a result of his professional accomplishments, Hal has been inducted into both the Songwriters Hall of Fame and the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame. He has also received the prestigious Songwriters Hall of Fame Towering Song Award and its Johnny Mercer Award. Hal has also been honored with The Recording Academy's Grammy Trustees Award and the British Performing Rights Society's Ivor Novello Award, becoming the first American citizen ever to receive that award. He is also listed as a "Distinguished Patron of the Arts" at the Los Angeles Music

Center and serves as a member of the Board of Governors at Cedars Sinai Medical Center.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I ask that you join me in thanking Hal for the joy his music has brought to our lives, and in wishing him a happy birthday and many happy returns.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
WILLIAM R. TRACY ON HIS PRO-
MOTION TO THE RANK OF COLONEL
IN THE UNITED STATES AIR
FORCE

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American and constituent of Illinois' 3rd Congressional District, Lieutenant Colonel William R. Tracy. On July 29th, 2011, he will be promoted to the rank of Colonel in the United States Air Force. William Tracy's talent and commitment were obvious 25 years ago when he received his appointment to the United States Air Force Academy from my father, Representative William O. Lipinski. I am privileged today to recognize Lt. Col. Tracy for his exemplary service to our country.

Upon his graduation from the United States Air Force Academy in 1990 as a Second Lieutenant, Lt. Col. Tracy served for three years as a maintenance officer at Luke Air Force Base in Arizona. After his completion of flight training to become an F-15C Eagle Pilot, Lt. Col. Tracy served at Tyndall Air Force Base. Over the past 17 years he has accumulated more than 2,000 flying hours, including participation in no-fly missions over both northern and southern Iraq. While taking part in these no-fly missions, Lt. Col. Tracy was awarded a Purple Heart for injuries sustained when an insurgent's bomb exploded near him in Saudi Arabia.

Lt. Col. Tracy graduated in the top ten percent of his class at the Air Force Staff and Command Academy, demonstrating his intellect and work ethic, and received his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel upon graduation from the Air Force War College. Due to his excellent leadership qualities, the Air Force placed Lt. Col. Tracy as commanding officer of a Test and Evaluation Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base, where he currently serves today.

I would like to recognize the dedication, skill, and valor Lt. Col. Tracy has displayed throughout his career in the United States Air Force. We are all thankful for his service and the sacrifices he has made during his lifetime of service to the United States. I congratulate Lt. Col. William R. Tracy on his promotion and I will continue to follow his career closely as he continues to be an asset to our armed services.